

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR GOALS AND IDEAS OF DAY OF TRIBUTE TO ALL FIREFIGHTERS

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 2002

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 476 and all of America's firefighters, especially those who have died in the line of duty.

As a proud Member of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, I think it is fitting and appropriate that we set aside time to pay tribute to our nation's firefighters, men and women who have dedicated their lives so that the rest of us can sleep in peace. The threat of fire and the calamity an actual fire often creates is a day-to-day concern for all our communities, not to mention the added threats of terrorism now confronting us.

In 1992, on behalf of the more than one million firefighters in over 32,000 fire departments nationally, Congress rightly created the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation to lead a nationwide effort to remember our nation's fallen firefighters and their families. Since its creation, this foundation has assisted many family members, helping them overcome the loss of their fallen champions. Within hours of the September 11th tragedy, the foundation established a process that used resources from across the country to provide the critical support that members of the Fire Department of New York City and their families needed.

This weekend the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation will honor the 442 firefighters who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their communities last year, including those lost in the World Trade Center's disaster. Also to be honored are five firefighters from my state of New Jersey who served with pride and honor and who dedicated their lives to protect others in their communities. Willie Barns, George "June" Danielson, Jr., James T. Heenan, Alberto Tirado, and Lawrence James Webb are New Jersey's fallen heroes. They will be honored for their ultimate acts of valor this weekend. My prayers and the prayers of New Jerseyans everywhere will be with them and their families.

Madam Speaker, our firefighters and emergency personnel who stand at the ready to protect and help us around the clock deserve our support and dedication. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote YES on H. Con. Res. 476.

NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY

HON. ANÍBAL ACEVEDO-VILÁ

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 2, 2002

Mr. ANÍBAL ACEVEDO-VILÁ. Mr. Speaker, National Public Lands Day was celebrated

across the land—and in Puerto Rico last Saturday, September 28. This is an annual day of caring for our public lands with volunteers doing needed work to improve those special places we go for recreation and enjoyment of the outdoors.

More than 700 volunteers worked in the Caribbean National Forest, known as El Yunque, and at the San Juan National Historic Site. This is the third year Puerto Rico has joined this hands-on effort that is directed by the National Environmental Education & Training Foundation.

El Yunque is the largest block of public land on the island and one of the most popular recreation sites in Puerto Rico. Nearly a million tourists experience this lush tropical rain forest environment each year, recognized as the friendliest and most accessible tropical rain forest in the world. The Toyota Foundation coordinated efforts for an educational clean up activity with teachers and their environments clubs throughout Puerto Rico after having attended a one-day seminar on the importance of conservation of our island and around the world. Keynote speaker was Mario Davila, president of Toyota of Puerto Rico, who told volunteers of Toyota's worldwide commitment to the environment. Volunteers were enthusiastic and said they look forward to next year's National Public Lands Day.

The National Historic Site is the defense fortification that once surrounded the old, colonial portion of San Juan, including sandstone walls dating to the 1630s. Here, volunteers worked in the San Felipe del Morro Fort and on the recently designated trail.

I am delighted that so many were willing to give up a Saturday to join in this largest volunteer, hands-on effort to improve public lands—in Puerto Rico and in all 50 states and Guam.

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON MISSING, EXPLOITED, AND RUN-AWAY CHILDREN

HON. JIM MATHESON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 2, 2002

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of the efforts that the President has taken in organizing the White House Conference on Missing, Exploited, and Runaway Children. As you know, our country has been especially affected by the seemingly large number of child abductions over the summer. I am proud to say that I am an original co-sponsor of Representatives Frost and Dunn's National AMBER Alert Network Act, which was passed earlier this year by the US Senate.

Mr. Speaker, over 58,000 children were reported missing in 1999 according to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. While this number represents only non-family kidnappings, the anguish that parents and loved ones go through when any child becomes missing is indescribable.

Today, both the House of Representatives and the President took a leap forward in protecting our youth. The Judiciary Committee passed the Child Abduction Prevention Act, which significantly enhances the ability of our nation's law enforcement community to not only find missing children, but also prosecute their abductors. This bipartisan approach will improve the AMBER Alert programs in many states and establish a national coordinator to set up minimum standards for relaying information about abductions in a quick and efficient manner.

The bill also strengthens penalties for violence against children, including automatic first degree murder charges for child abuse and child torture murders, severe penalties for sexual abuse, kidnapping and sex tourism, and a "two strikes you're out policy" mandating life in prison for repeat violators.

Today the President hosted a White House Conference where he announced a new national standard for rapid-response electronic notifications. He also pre-empted Congress by creating a new coordinator at the Department of Justice tasked with improving coordination and cooperation between federal, regional, state, and local law enforcement communities.

I am very pleased the government and private organizations are realizing that they can help prevent kidnappings. On Tuesday, I was happy to hear that AOL will begin using the AMBER Alert system to notify more than 26 million subscribers in states and cities all over the country. This effort is to be applauded by Congress and the country and will hopefully encourage other businesses to begin taking a proactive approach to helping communities solve these crimes early and prevent kidnappings.

Mr. Speaker, while the role of the federal government in preventing these heinous crimes is very important, I must also say that I am proud of the efforts that communities have made. The outpouring of support for the families of those who have lost their children is exceptional. The AMBER Alert system only works when the community is involved. A number of kidnappings were foiled this year specifically because regular citizens paid attention and helped catch criminals.

LEACH-LAFALCE INTERNET GAMBLING ENFORCEMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 2002

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 556, the Unlawful Internet Gambling Funding Prohibition Act.

In 1997, there were only 12 illegal Internet gambling sites. Today, there are close to 2,000. Testimonies received during Congressional hearings underscored that children and problem gamblers are the most frequent visitors to online gaming sites. Financial ruination

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